



FINANCE COMMITTEE

Town of Grafton

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**Finance Committee
Public Meeting/Public Hearing
Monday, January 25, 2016
7:00 P.M.
Conference Room F**

Public Meeting

The Public meeting of the Finance Committee was called to order by Chairman Joel Schwendemann at 7:02 P.M.

Finance Committee

Present: Joel Schwendemann, Jennifer Dorazio, Don Davison, Lisa Brovelli Kelley, Ed Prisby, Roger Carrier

Absent: Heather McCue, Denise Nault and Sue Robbins were absent.

Public Hearing

Motion: Roger Carrier moved that Finance Committee open the Public Hearing on Article 1 of the Special Town Meeting scheduled for February 8, 2016.

Seconded: Don Davison.

All in favor. Motion carries.

Review of the February 08, 2016 Special Town meeting Warrant Articles

Doug Willardson, Assistant Town Administrator, provided a presentation on Article 1.

- MGL 164, section 134a allows municipalities to aggregate electricity and bid out to attempt to negotiate better prices than those currently offered to residents and small businesses in Grafton by National Grid.
- Passage of Article 1 would allow the Town to hire a consultant to educate the townspeople, put together a negotiation package, and bid out the price of the supply service charge per kWh. The article would also allow the town to accept a negotiated contract price, but it would be up to individual residents and small businesses to opt in to the above.
- The contract would lock in a price for 2 years. National Grid's prices fluctuate seasonally.
- Town currently has its own negotiated price/contract for municipal buildings. Once the current contract is over, the Town could ask current contract provider for a new bid or could opt in to the contract being considered by Article 1.

Finance Committee January 25, 2016

- Questions:
 - Can people opt out at any time or are they locked in? *People can opt out at any time.*
 - Can people opt out then back in? *No. Once someone has opted out they must wait until the next contract period to opt back in.*
 - Impact on Town? *Revenue neutral for Town.*
 - How is the consultant paid? *Consultant receives a fee.*
 - Which consultant will be used? *The consultant has not yet been selected.*
 - Why the rush to put it on a Special Town Meeting versus waiting for the regular Town Meeting in May? *The aggregator is looking to bid the supply side in early May.*

Motion: Don Davison moved that Finance Committee recommend passage of Article 1.

Seconded: Roger Currier.

Discussion: None

All in favor. Motion carries.

Close the Public Hearing

Motion: Don Davison moved that the Public Hearing be closed (7:15)

Seconded: Roger Currier.

Discussion: None

All in favor. Motion carries.

The following blurb was drafted for publication:

Finance Committee recommends passage of Article 1.

The Article allows the Town to hire a consultant to begin negotiations that could offer lower bulk electricity rates to residents and small businesses.

The above will be circulated via email by Jennifer Dorazio for review and if no objections, Susan Fiacco will publish.

Other Matters

- Finance Committee has decided to cancel the meeting scheduled for Wednesday, January 27, 2016. Joel Schwendemann to cancel the meeting and alert the Clerk's office.
- Meeting scheduled for February 10th. Original purpose of meeting was to review the budget book. As budget book will not be available, the committee decided to cancel that meeting. Anticipate the budget books will be available by February 19th. Joel Schwendemann to ask Susan Fiacco to cancel the meeting.
- **Next meeting is February 24th joint budget presentation.**

Adjournment

Motion: Ed Prisby moved that the Finance Committee adjourn its public meeting.

Seconded: Lisa Brovelli Kelley

Discussion: None

All in favor. Motion carries.

The public meeting of the Finance Committee adjourned at 7:26 P.M.

Minutes taken by,

Jennifer Dorazio

Respectfully submitted by,

Susan Fiacco